

AN ACT concerning transportation.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act is amended by adding Section 23b as follows:

(615 ILCS 5/23b new)

Sec. 23b. Dams; signs and buoys.

(a) The Department of Natural Resources shall establish specifications for signs and devices that provide warnings of the presence of dams for persons using the public waters of the State. The Department shall establish such specifications pursuant to administrative rule.

(b) For dams located in public waters and that are not subject to federal regulation regarding safety standards, the Department of Natural Resources shall examine each dam to determine hazards that may exist at each dam.

(c) The Department of Natural Resources shall, after conducting the examination required under subsection (b) of this Section, submit administrative rules setting forth appropriate safety devices to be required at each dam.

(d) The Department of Natural Resources shall be authorized to designate enforceable exclusion zones around dams pursuant to administrative rule. Violation of such exclusion zones shall

constitute a Class A misdemeanor.

(e) Except for willful and wanton misconduct, neither the Department of Natural Resources nor employees or agents of the Department shall be liable for damages, injuries, or deaths occurring at dams located in public waters by reason of the Department's regulation thereof pursuant to this Section. Nothing in this Act shall relieve an owner or operator of a dam from the legal duties, obligations, and liabilities arising from ownership or operation.

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.